

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/1/18

Florence, New Jersey
August 1, 2018

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Ostrander at 8:00 PM. Council President Ostrander led the Salute to the Flag.

At 8:04 PM there was a recess for a demonstration from Officer Zachary Czepiel and his K-9 partner, Bolo, outside the building.

The meeting was called back to order at 8:25 PM by Council President Ostrander.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was sent to Trenton Times for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board; placed on the web-site on January 4, 2018. Notice was advertised in the Burlington Co. Times on January 10, 2018.

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Ted Lovenduski, Jerry Sandusky, Dave Woolston, Paul Ostrander

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Township Administrator, Kelly Grant, Esq., Township Solicitor; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk

MINUTES

None at this time.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to receive and file the Tax Collector's Tax Monthly Report for June 2018, Chief Financial Officer's Cash Report and Budget Report for June 2018. Voice vote – all ayes.

It was on the MOTION of Woolston; seconded by Sandusky to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Lovenduski

Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

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- A. On Premise 50/50 for Florence Township H.S. Band Boosters at Florence Twp. H.S. 1050 Cedar Lane, Florence, NJ from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm on Sept. 7 and 28; Oct. 5, 12, and 19
- B. Application by Trinity United Methodist Church for use of Nyikita Field on August 18, 2018 from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. for Praise in the Park Concert
- C. Off-Premise Merchandise Raffle for Florence Township Football Association December 2, 2018, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Riverfront School 500 E. Front Street, Florence

It was the Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Sandusky, to approve Applications A-C.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Sandusky, Ostrander, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Ostrander opened the meeting to the public at this time.

Michael Muchowski, 1337 Maple Avenue, said he saw an article regarding the Kampack project proposed for the Roebling Steel Mill site. He asked if there was anything on the agenda this evening regarding this. Mayor Wilkie said an ordinance was adopted last month regarding that project. Mr. Muchowski asked if that is something that would go before the Planning Board. He was told it was. Mayor Wilkie explained the site was designated a redevelopment area in 1999. The township came to an agreement with Kampack. The company makes cardboard from paper. It is not a processing plant in the sense of a paper processing plant. Councilman Lovenduski and Assistant Administrator Sahol visited the company's operation in Georgia. They observed that there were no emissions and everything was enclosed. The proposed project would occupy about one-third of the property near the creek past the lightrail station. They currently have an operation in Newark but it is outdated.

Mr. Muchowski said he was concerned about an industrial use on the river. He considers that area a valuable asset. Years ago, there was some discussion regarding uses for that land. There are other areas in the community that have rail access. He is concerned the township is sacrificing more advantageous community uses for industrial-type uses in the short term. He doesn't know that if in Mayor and Council's situation, he would have said no to Amazon, but he would prefer to see Amazon and the influx of traffic on Route 130.

Mayor Wilkie said the township did not know ahead of time that Amazon would be there. The developer built on spec without having an end user. The Roebling site is still not totally cleaned up. The purpose has been to find an end user that would clean it up. By placing the project in the upper corner, the township still has access to the Delaware River. The project will provide the funding to create improvements in the other areas of the site. Kampack is receiving a tax incentive for the project. The average employee will be making about \$70,000. There could be employees coming

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from the Newark site, but in the state application it was stated anyone working at the Roebling site would need to be trained because the technology is totally different than what they have currently. This could be the cornerstone and the township could possibly install a boat ramp, some restaurants, and possibly some office space. The township hopes to utilize the river area. It did not have access to it previously.

Mr. Muchowski said that was his concern. He was afraid something was being introduced that would be perceived as a negative impact to the community. He understands the dollars and cents of wanting to see the site cleaned up, but his initial opinion is that the land can only get more valuable as time moves on. We fight quality of life issues every day. He always thought Council and the administration have done a tremendous job regarding balance in the community, but he is starting to see some of the negative impacts of all of the warehousing that has been built. It is starting to grow all along the riverfront, not just in Florence. His understanding is that there is also going to be large scale warehousing on the old R.D. Wood site. He knows the position is hard for the township but he would like to see a balance of quality of life in the neighborhoods and the revenue sources that are needed to survive and strive to move forward and be a better community. He understands the effort this takes but he is concerned that in the short term the course is going to be detrimental to the township.

Mayor Wilkie said regarding the Griffin Pipe site, the plant shut down around 2010. When he first came into office, a developer came to the township and the township told the developer they would not be able to use Delaware Avenue and Front Street through town to access the site. Someone came and bought the property and cleaned up the contamination. It is mostly on the river side but there are remnants on the other side. A redevelopment plan was created. People may perceive large buildings as warehouses but these are single docks. The redevelopment plan has been approved so the proposed project would have to go before the Planning Board for the final approvals for the end use. Right now, the township does not know what the end use will be. He discussed the zoning for the property. The township has been working with the owner and now will have access to the river across from the sewer plant. The township will also acquire land adjacent to the plant for future expansion. In addition, there are other tracts of land the township will receive to be used for the betterment of the community. There will be more information regarding Kampack because the proposal will need to go before the Planning Board. He also offered to sit down with anyone and answer any questions they may have. Mr. Muchowski said he just wanted to voice his concerns. He wants to fully understand the decision that was made and the process used. He thanked everyone for their time.

Joe Csik, 45 East Fifth Street, said he read in the paper that Elcon received conditional approval from Pennsylvania for the incinerator. He wanted to know how that would affect Florence. He read that the company would be dumping in the river. Mayor Wilkie said there is the potential for that and that is why Florence Township, along with Burlington County and the other surrounding communities, have been opposing Elcon. It has been an issue for a couple of years. It was denied at different points by the Department of Environmental Protection at Pennsylvania's level. This only allows Elcon to move to the next stage in the process. The township is opposed to this and has had representation at the public hearings. There are some other organizations working together to

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prevent this from happening. The same proposal was denied in Lakewood, NJ. It was also proposed in the area of Bristol, Pa. and was denied. The township is doing everything it can to oppose this and has been reaching out to government officials for assistance.

Fred Wainwright, 1011 Cedar Lane, said the paper is coming by rail for the Kampack site. He hopes there isn't an issue getting the train cars in there. There may be problems with the spur. Mayor Wilkie explained the spur is being replaced and the rail cars will go right into the buildings.

It was the Motion of Woolston, seconded by Lovenduski to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-174
Approve Change Order No. 3 for
Termite Damage Repair for the
1042 Potts Mill Road Community Support Building
Levy Construction Company
134 Cuthbert Boulevard, Audubon, NJ 08106

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-175
Approve Current Estimate No.2 – Final for Contract for
Well No. 6 Redevelopment and Pump Repair
To: A.C. Schultes, Inc.
664 South Evergreen Avenue
Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-176
Approve Release of Maintenance Bond
Burlington Stores

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-177
Resolution Providing for the insertion of a Special Item of
Revenue in the Budget of the Township of Florence,
County of Burlington, Pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:4-87
Chapter 159, P.L. 1948

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-178
Cancel Certain Capital Improvement
Appropriation Balances of Completed Projects

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-179
Authorizing the Township of Florence to Place
Municipal Liens on Certain Properties for

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Failing to Address Property Maintenance Violations

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-180
Authorizing Approval of 2018-2019
ABC Renewal of Club License**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-181
Extension of Time for Payment of Tax Bills**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-182
Approve Current Estimate No. 10 for Contract for
Water Treatment Plant Upgrades
To: MBE Mark III Electric, Inc.
213 Main Street, Madison, NJ 07940**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-183
Approve Partial Payment No. 2 for Contract for
2018 Road Resurfacing Project
To: MECO, Inc.
PO Box 536, Clarksburg, NJ 08510-0536**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-184
Authorize the Township Engineer and Assistant Administrator to
File Application for NJ DOT Municipal Aid Program**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-185
Approve Partial Payment No. 1 for
Cedar Lane Road Improvements
To: Richard T. Barrett Paving Company, Inc.
400 Prospect Street, Trenton, NJ 08618-2630**

Council President Ostrander asked Administrator Brook to explain why Resolution No. 2018-180 was on the agenda this evening.

Administrator Brook said the resolution involved the renewal for the liquor license for Opre-Larson VFW Post 8838. Representatives of the township met with representatives of the post. The township was concerned because ABC issued a suspension of the license for forty-eight days. That is a significant suspension. The township wanted to meet with them to ensure that they understood that even from the state's perspective, a liquor license is considered to be a privilege, it is not considered a right. The township reviewed its concerns with the post and discussed with them what had taken place to warrant a suspension. The post said they intend to file for a monetary payment to the state in lieu of closing. This is a club license. The post representatives said they did not know the parameters of the license. It caused some concern for the township representatives. The post was told to familiarize themselves with the license. The township expressed its concern regarding a

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suspension for such a long period of time. Administrator Brook and Police Chief Brian Boldizar recommend Council approve the license tonight but advise that it would be monitored over the next year. If further concerns arise, as much as the town would not want to do it, it would consider a suspension or revocation of the license when the renewal came up again next July. He wanted it on the record that the township met with the commander of the post and received assurances that the operating procedures would improve and they would stay compliant with the ABC Laws. The township hopes all goes well in the future and is not seeking to have any disappointing action from either side. It is up to the post to be sure they comply with the laws concerning their ABC license.

Councilman Sandusky asked that Resolution 2018-180 be pulled and voted on separately. Councilman Woolston asked if the license could be issued on a probationary status. Administrator Brook said he is not sure that is allowed. He believes it would have to be renewed with conditions or denied at the time of renewal. The seriousness of the violations was made quite clear to the commander. Clerk Erlston confirmed it could not be made probationary; it would have to be renewed with conditions or denied.

Administrator Brook said there have been licenses issued with conditions. A license can be revoked if there is cause. In this situation, he feels the township sent a very stern and straightforward message to the post and its leadership. He believes they really understood when they expressed the fact that they don't fully comprehend the parameters and the requirements associated with a club license. For example, members can't leave the building and go buy liquor to be sold at the club. It was apparent by what they were cited for by the state that they had some issues and were not fully compliant with the ABC License. He thinks Council sent a very good, professional overture to them and they are on notice that if they continue to have problems the township would seek a suspension or revocation of the license.

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Lovenduski to approve Resolution Nos. 2018-174 through 2018-179 and Resolution Nos. 2018-181 through 185.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

It was the Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution No. 2018-180.

On the Question:

Councilman Sandusky said being in the situation of at times dealing with club licenses, he knows a bit about them. His question was, Administrator Brook mentioned that the forty-eight-day suspension could possibly be an allowance to pay the state a certain amount of money and be able to remain open. He would like to see something be done right away. He asked if the clerk would be notified of any action. Clerk Erlston said ABC would send notification in the mail to her but she doesn't know how timely that would occur. She said the Police Department also has a contact at

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ABC. The police can always call and inquire. Administrator Brook said it should be mentioned that when the township met with the commander, Clerk Erlston expressed her willingness to help give the post guidance and information on what is related to the club license. Chief Boldizar and Detective Chris Powell echoed the same sentiments at the meeting. There were discussions regarding some of the things the post had done, including opening on the day of the Patriotic Celebration while the license was suspended. That will result in a fine from ABC. There are staff members at the township who will help them if they need it, all they have to do is ask. Clerk Erlston went above and beyond to try and help them with the license renewal. It was never filed. She went out of her way to make sure the post understood it could not be open on July 7th and they still opened. That method of working with a liquor license is not good. Councilman Sandusky said that is part of the reason he raised the question. He was in contact with Clerk Erlston and she told him exactly what Administrator Brook just explained. He thinks for a club that has been in trouble with the township, there would be some representation this evening at the meeting. They don't seem concerned about the license because there is no one in attendance. He would like to have up-to-date information to make sure they are following the parameters of the license. Administrator Brook said the township is doing its best to monitor the situation. The township was caught off guard. There was correspondence sent to the post in May requesting a meeting. There was no response. It was sent to the post. The representatives of the post said they don't usually get the mail there. He isn't sure, but he thinks the mail might go there and it is not being disseminated. Any correspondence will now be sent to the commander's home. Either way, if there was a forty-eight-day suspension a line was crossed. The township has sent a clear message to the post that this is not an acceptable use of a liquor license in the Township of Florence.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-18

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, IN THE
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR
REPAINTING AND REPAIR OF A TOWNSHIP WATER TOWER
IN AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP, APPROPRIATING \$1,500,000 THEREFOR,
AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,500,000 IN
WATER AND SEWER UTILITY BONDS OR NOTES OF THE
TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE THE SAME
(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)**

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to open the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance N0. 2018-18. All ayes.

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Mayor Wilkie said the ordinance is for work on the water tower on Florence-Columbus Road. It was built in 2000. This is the first major overhaul of the tower. It will be painted, cleaned and serviced. It will take place in February or March when water use is minimal.

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Lovenduski to close the public hearing. All ayes.

It was the Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Sandusky to adopt Ordinance 2018-18.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-19
ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE ADOPTING A
REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR PARCELS WITHIN THE
ROUTE 130 REDEVELOPMENT AREA
(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)**

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to open the public hearing of Ordinance No. 2018-19. All ayes.

Mayor Wilkie said this refers to the Weiss Property, better known as the Totten Property. It is across Cedar Lane from the Wawa. The plan is for a Marriot Hotel, a restaurant and apartments. The redevelopment plan had a stipulation that once fifty percent of the apartments were constructed they had to start building the hotel. Because there is a hotel being built on a site behind Burger King that is moving along quickly, there was concern with financing. By removing the clause, the project can move forward and be able to secure the financing they were concerned about. The township wanted to make sure both hotels would be viable.

Mr. Wainwright said there is a lot of topsoil and dirt piled by the Burger King. The lot near there needs dirt. He would like to see the dirt stay on-site and not be hauled out of town. He also expressed concern about how some of the construction that is there was performed. He requested someone take a look. Mayor Wilkie said he appreciated the comments, but the property Mr. Wainwright is referring to is not the property that the ordinance addresses. He said the concerns that were raised will be addressed.

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to close the public hearing. All ayes.

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It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Lovenduski to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-19.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-20

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 56, SECTION
2 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
ENTITLED “BRUSH, GRASS AND WEEDS” TO AMEND THE
NOTICE REQUIREMENT REGARDING FOR ROUTINELY
NONCOMPLIANT PROPERTIES WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP
(1st Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 9/5/18)**

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2018-20 and set the public hearing and adoption for September 5, 2018.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers:

Administration

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie said for the public's information, Resolution No. 2018-177 refers to sending a child to camp. Each year, the township, in partnership with the Fire Department and the Civic Association, distributes a township calendar to all the residents. Once the cost for producing the calendar is paid, the balance remaining goes into an account to send a child to camp. A former township resident had given funding for this purpose in memory of his wife. The last two years it has been supplemented from the proceeds from the calendar. Each year it is a different child and Liberty Lake works with the township on a reduced rate. The child usually spends two weeks at the camp. It is for a child that can benefit from getting away for two weeks. The child always appreciates it and usually the families do as well. He thanked Council for their support with this.

Resolution 2018-184 is concerning Potts Mill Road. The township received a grant for the project and will be approving contracts next week. The work will be from Old York Road toward the creek. It would stop around Creekwood Drive. The next phase would go from the bridge toward Route 130. One thing that needs to be determined is what side of the road the sidewalk will be installed on. That will be part of the design and application process. The township hopes that because there is a sidewalk element the project will garner support.

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The township heard yesterday that the state, county and the local Police Department executed a drug bust. There is much that needs to be documented before it can be physically done. Fortunately, no one was hurt in the raid. There were major issues identified that are being addressed. The township is grateful for the Police Department and the cooperation of the citizens.

National Night Out is scheduled for next Tuesday evening. There will be free food. It is being held at the Community Center located at Seventh Avenue and Main Street from 6:00pm until 9:00pm. He had a flier for anyone who would like to see it. It is also on the township's website and social media pages.

Mayor Wilkie said the Police Department, through the Community Policing Division, was able to work with the Cops and Bobbers Program. On Saturday, August 18, from 9:00am until 11:00am, children ages three to fifteen can participate in a fishing derby. It is being held at the Fountain of Life Center. There is lake on-site that has been stocked. He encourages the children to come out and learn how to fish. It follows up from the program that is made available to the local third grade students at the boat dock. This is a nice program the police were able to organize.

The township received notice that the Delaware River Heritage Trail, that will cross from Mansfield Township into Roebling, will have an at grade crossing as opposed to having an overpass bridge. This will save a lot of money and will make the trail a more reasonable possibility than what was previously discussed.

This week is the second week of the township's summer camp program. There are about fifty children signed up. There have been a number of activities for the children. They seem to be enjoying themselves and it is a nice program for the community.

This year tennis has been introduced as an additional Recreation Department sport. The courts at Wilkie Park were refurbished. It was very successful.

Mayor Wilkie said he asked Council to authorize additional payment of four hundred dollars to the Post 194 American Legion. Before Memorial Day the post places American flags and geraniums on graves. They used to be provided by the county to every post. The generosity was abused and the county stopped. No post in Florence abused the privilege but some posts were found to be selling the flowers. For a time, some township residents donated flowers but a number of years ago the township started paying for the flowers for the post. The township has been providing one hundred dollars a year but the reality is that five hundred and thirty-five geraniums cost almost eleven hundred dollars. The one hundred dollars has already been provided but he would ask that Council approve the additional four hundred dollars. This is not a guarantee that this would be an annual contribution but it is a nice gesture.

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Lovenduski to provide the additional contribution. All ayes.

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Mayor Wilkie invited Councilman Lovenduski to provide information about the proposed dog park. Councilman Lovenduski said there have been discussions regarding building a dog park for a few months. The committee recommended moving the proposed location at Roebling Park up a little closer and off to the side of the path so it will not interfere with anything that is already there. It would be a small, useable dog park. The problem is that people are using the large retention basin for a dog park and they can't see their dog from one end to the other. Right now, there is a huge dog park that does not have a sight line from one end to the other. There are dogs running loose and there are people walking their dogs and the loose dogs are coming to the fence trying to get to the leashed dogs. It is a very unsafe situation at this time. Sooner rather than later, the committee would like to create an area where people can walk their dogs off the leash. There would be more control over what goes on. It is an improvement for safety and the quality of life for the people that would be using it.

Mayor Wilkie said this is possible because the existing black fence that goes all the way around the retention basin will be used. Right now, the fence makes it impossible for the township to maintain the basin and it becomes very overgrown. The recommendation was to put a split rail fence on the upper hill first and then remove the black fence for the dog park. It would also provide quick access from the parking lot. Councilman Lovenduski explained it would be just down the hill from the lot so the residents in the area are buffered from any noise there might be. Mayor Wilkie invited any questions or concerns from Council. Initially the plan from the Dog Park Committee was to have it further down but this would place it closer. If this location ends up not working, it could be moved to another location. He noted that in the future there may be some enhancements placed in that area based on what the Park Committee recommended.

Councilman Baldorossi said the Park Committee had proposed an amphitheater for that corner. Mayor Wilkie said he knew there was discussion about an amphitheater but he was not aware there was a location. It would also take time for the construction of that. This would not prevent the amphitheater; the dog park could be relocated. Councilman Lovenduski said there would just be a fence, a water line and some sort of shade structure. It will be minimal.

Mayor Wilkie requested Council members look at the proposed site so it can be discussed at a subsequent meeting. He tentatively gave a deadline of April for the park. It is his understanding that it would be something that could be done in-house once the grass season is over. From a Public Works standpoint, getting rid of the fence around the retention basin will provide access to maintain it. His only concern is having something in place for the people that are using the basin for a dog park now. He isn't sure how many people are doing that.

Councilman Sandusky said he would prefer seeing it done sooner rather than later. He recalled there were some local scouts who were interested in helping. Councilman Lovenduski said the scouts would like to build some agility equipment and some benches. They are willing to do a lot of volunteer work. Councilman Sandusky said he would like to see it done soon. Mayor Wilkie said it is a matter of Public Works being able to fit it in the schedule. The township needs to think about putting the regulations in place and gate access regulations must be determined. There needs to be some kind of monitoring in place. There are some administrative pieces that need to be

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completed. The actual structure is not the issue. The Dog Park Committee raised the questions of who would be policing it and who would be cleaning it up. It was his understanding that the committee felt those who frequent the park would do certain things. He does not believe the township would be policing it.

Councilman Baldorossi said the township waited forty-four years for that park and there is now access; he doesn't agree with putting a dog park there. Councilman Lovenduski asked where he would like to see it. Councilman Baldorossi said he doesn't know. Mayor Wilkie noted that people are already creating a park in the retention basin. He would like to stop that from happening. Councilman Baldorossi said they should not be using it and the lock that was on the gate was taken off somehow.

Mayor Wilkie said people expressed to him a desire to have the dog park in Roebling because the yards there are smaller. There is a large park in Florence where it could be built but many people would have to drive to it. It is a decision for Council. There doesn't need to be decision tonight; this information was just presented this evening. Councilman Sandusky said he thinks most likely there will be a request from Florence and then from the country area for additional dog parks once this one is installed. It won't matter where one is built first, the other areas of the community will also want a dog park.

Councilman Baldorossi said there was a Park Committee who met for about a year. Mayor Wilkie said that committee is done; they presented their recommendations. It was not a standing committee, it was an ad-hoc committee. He offered to reconvene the committee to get their opinion on the dog park. Councilman Baldorossi said he thought that might be a good idea. That committee was created to get a group of people from that area to share their thoughts and recommendations. Council has the final say. Councilman Woolston said the township will end up with two dog parks. He thinks the proposed spot is ideal to go with right now. In the Florence area there are many athletic fields to contend with. He suggested going with this site to see how it works out. Councilman Lovenduski said if it doesn't work out it would be easy to remove. He said it doesn't hurt to ask the Park Committee's opinion. He doesn't think there was anything recommended for the area he is proposing. The township is not trying to seek advice and then ignore it. It is only trying to put the dog park in a spot that is out of the way that doesn't interfere with anything that was recommended. He doesn't believe it would. Councilman Baldorossi said he thinks it is a beautiful park and the township has waited for forty-four years to have access and now there will be a dog park there. There was discussion regarding the location and the size of the park. Council President Ostrander said the park was something that could be discussed at the next meeting.

Municipal Administrator

Administrator Brook said Councilman Sandusky mentioned a few weeks ago that the township needs to deal with abandoned properties. Tonight, there was a resolution that essentially says after notice was provided to a property owner of record and there was no response, if the town had to have work done a lien was placed on the property. The violation was abated rather quickly and over time it will be collected. The ordinance that was introduced tonight says if there is an abandoned

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property and the owner hasn't changed, after numerous notifications no re-notice would be required. He thanked Council, it pushed the township to go deep into the ordinance and to look at the law and refine it for the betterment of those people who may live near an abandoned property.

He congratulated Julie Klenk who works in the Tax Office and is the Water & Sewer Billing Clerk. She recently passed the test to become a Certified Tax Collector. It was a great deal of hard work and it is an extremely difficult test. It is a testament to her, her diligence, her knowledge and her professionalism.

Christine Swiderski, the Tax Collector, has moved forward and prepared the tax bills. As sometimes happens, the bills were printed and the state said late Friday afternoon it would be having a Homestead Rebate this year. The bills were already printed. Rather than create confusion, the bills will be sent out. The Tax Collector will then send new bills to the approximately twelve hundred households receiving the rebate. If the state had provided notice earlier it could have been dealt with. It makes it difficult but it will be dealt with.

He said lastly, everyone had probably seen on Facebook quite a few postings about pool safety. There was a copy in the packet of a letter that was sent to one gentleman who had many comments to raise. Sometimes the comments on that page are inappropriate, wrong, untrue, and can be rather mean. The individuals in the Code Enforcement Office are not perfect, they are like every other person who is in this room or who listens to this tape. They are fallible and make mistakes. But when it comes to pool safety, the township is required by the State of New Jersey to make sure the pools are installed safely. The Code Officials have not issued any fines. There is only one person at the present time who is being obstinate. He may have to be cited. The Enforcement Officers have a right, when there is a violation, to issue a fine, but they are not. They try to work with homeowners to ensure that they pull the proper permits, that the pools are installed safely and that no one gets hurt, especially children. The Building Subcode Official actually keeps a list of clippings of unfortunate accidents that have occurred with children over the years. The goal is to advise people why it is important that they maintain pool safety and get a permit. It is a state law. They are nowhere near what some individuals are posting on Facebook. It is beyond sad and he is disappointed by some of the things that people write without knowing the truth or taking the time to learn. He hopes the gentleman the township wrote to will come in and meet with township employees and learn what the truth is. He can believe whatever he wants to believe and he can post whatever he wants on Facebook but it is never right to demean individuals who are good people who are just trying to do their job. The township is always willing to speak to anybody and meet with anyone when it was convenient for them, even if it was before or after regular office hours. Assistant Administrator Sahol is working on a post to advise people of the reason why pool safety is important and why the Enforcement Officers are out there. They are not collecting fine money and it has nothing to do with permit fees. It has everything to do with following state law and making sure the pools are safe. He said someone over the past year had an abandoned pool and he refused to put a lock on the gate. The township asked him to put a lock, he was sent letters and the officials even talked to his daughter and he berated the officials up and down and used words that cannot even be put on the record. Finally, he had to be cited to court because he just would not lock the gate. If a child got in there and drowned, people would blame the township and ask what was done

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to prevent this. Another example was a homeowner who put a pool up and did not want to put up a fence. It got to the point where the township had to threaten enforcement action in order to get him to put up a fence. The whole goal of pool safety is to make sure that children don't get hurt. There is no do-over when it comes to children and pool safety. He wanted to be sure this information was on the record. The township is very accessible to talk to anyone when it comes to these things.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

Assistant Administrator Sahol said there was a memo in the packet regarding the bus stop on Hornberger Avenue. The site was a vacant property for a long time. But now it is occupied with residents. It would be appropriate to move the bus stop that is in front of the property down to Amboy Avenue. If Council is in agreement, he would start the process. It would require an ordinance because it is in the code as far as the location. Then New Jersey Transit would be notified. He would like to help the resident have a more peaceful life. Council was in agreement.

He said there was discussion previously regarding the pavers in front of the commercial area on Broad Street. He believes the pavers were originally installed thirty years ago. That was just the front of the buildings. He received some preliminary numbers, and he wanted to share with Council. It would be about \$25,000 to do the entire front, remove the trees and make it a safe, suitable walking surface. It is a very good project that the township should move forward on. He wanted to be sure Council was in agreement. All were in agreement. Assistant Administrator Sahol said he would like to see it done during the fall months. He will be talking to the business owners to coordinate it.

New Business

Board of Health

Public Comments: Open to the Public

Council President Ostrander opened the meeting to the public.

Bill Lee, 551 Shaver Drive, said last weekend the boy scouts installed reflective rings on fire hydrants. He wanted to know who was in charge of fire hydrants. He was told it is the Water & Sewer Department. He said the scouts broke two wrenches during the process because some of the hydrant tops were impossible to remove. Mayor Wilkie said he was aware and the Water & Sewer Department is working on it. They are coordinating with the Fire Department.

Councilman Sandusky asked if the scouts were given lunch. Mayor Wilkie explained it was a project that was done between the scouts and the Fire Department. The township was not involved. Mr. Lee said he believes they were. Councilman Sandusky asked Mayor Wilkie if that meant the Fire Department was responsible for the scout's lunches. Mayor Wilkie said it was a scout service project so he wasn't sure if anyone was responsible for the scout's lunches. It was a service project. If the township had known, the township would have provided lunch, but he doesn't know if they were fed or not. He doesn't know how the scouts handle their service projects. Mayor Wilkie found out about it when he called David Lebak, the Water & Sewer Superintendent, to make sure

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the Fire Department didn't start doing work on the fire hydrants without contacting the Water & Sewer Department first. Mr. Lebak confirmed that he was aware of it and was working with the Fire Department. He did not deal with the scouts, the scouts went entirely through the Fire Department. Councilman Sandusky said he thinks the scouts did an excellent job and they should get lunch.

Mr. Wainwright said there was stuff piled up by a fence on Cedar Lane and he was told it was going to be cleaned up before the workers left. It is still there. Assistant Administrator Sahol said the project is nowhere near done. The contractor will take care of it. It is on the punch list. He hasn't been paid yet so it will get done.

It was the Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Sandusky to close the public comments. All ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:35 PM MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Woolston to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/aek